

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 250
By West

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elmore "Scoop"
Hudgins, the first Southeastern Conference
Sports Information Director.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that the Tennessee General Assembly and the sports community learned of the death of Elmore "Scoop" Hudgins, who served admirably as the first Sports Information Director for Vanderbilt University and the Southeastern Conference; and

WHEREAS, "Scoop" Hudgins was the first full-time Sports Information Director at Vanderbilt University, assuming that important post in 1946 while still a student at the university; and

WHEREAS, "Scoop" started the sports information office from scratch, expertly handling the day-to-day publicity efforts for the Commodores' varsity sports and researching the history of Vanderbilt athletics; and

WHEREAS, he served with distinction and probity in that post until 1964, when he joined the Southeastern Conference as the league's first full-time Sports Information Director; and

WHEREAS, while at the SEC office, "Scoop" successfully organized the very popular "SEC Football Skywriters Tour," in which the league's best sports writers travel from school to school recording and distributing game accounts and statistics; and

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WHEREAS, along with the countless All-SEC, All-American and Academic All-Americans he helped to produce, he also spent many hours tirelessly tutoring the athletes; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, he was elected president of the College Sports Information Directors of America; and

WHEREAS, “Scoop” retired from the Southeastern Conference in 1983 but he was soon back at work, serving as the first director of publicity for the Hall of Fame Bowl; and

WHEREAS, among the numerous honors he received were the prestigious Contribution to Football Award given by the National Football Foundation and the Hall of Fame’s Middle Tennessee Chapter and the Nashville Banner Commodore Award; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chattanooga, he graduated from Vanderbilt in 1948, and was a four-year Air Force veteran; and

WHEREAS, “Scoop” was married for twenty-three years to the former Hattileen Bonner of Viola, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the lengthy and complicated dictionary definition of “pioneer” includes: “One who is the first or among the first in any field of inquiry, enterprise or progress, to be the first to open or prepare a way”; and

WHEREAS, if you ask anybody who knew Scoop or knew of his many contributions to SEC sports and to college football, whether they be students, athletes, writers, coaches or fans, what their definition of “pioneer” is, the answer would be a resounding, much simpler one word answer: “Scoop”; and

WHEREAS, words that should only be used in extremely rare cases, including “renowned”, “highly respected”, “legendary”, “famed”, “brilliant”, “acclaimed”, “innovative”, “notable”, “leader”, “knowledgeable” and many, many more have been appropriately used to describe “Scoop” Hudgins; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor the memory of a man who made a tremendous positive difference to Vanderbilt, the SEC and in national sports; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Elmore “Scoop” Hudgins and express our deepest condolences to his family and friends, reflecting fondly on his lifetime of diligent and dedicated service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.